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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: 2005 SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORTING OFFICERS CONFERENCE,
MANILA, OCTOBER 13-14

1. Embassy Manila will host the 2005 Southeast Asia Reporting Officers Conference (SEAROC), October 13-14. Most of the event will take place at Mission's historic chancery. Please send a front-channel cable confirming attendance, security level of participant(s), and flight details as soon as possible. Room bookings will be at a hotel close to the Embassy at Manila's per diem daily rate of USD 127. Please note that FY-2005 funds can be obligated for travel that commences on or before October 14 (but tickets must be purchased and issued prior to close of business on September 30).

2. Overall coordinator for the event is Acting Political Counselor Joseph L. Novak (Unclass e-mail: novakjl@state.gov, Phone: 63-2-522-3566, FAX 63-2-523-1195). Control officers are Poloff Timothy Cipullo (Unclass e-mail: CipulloTL@state.gov, Phone: 63-2-522-3566, FAX 63-2-523-1195) and Poloff Machut Shishak (Unclass e-mail: ShishakM@state.gov, same Phone and FAX).

3. The conference will include a series of panel presentations followed by Q & A sessions. The conference agenda is under development and we would appreciate volunteers to give presentations. Please send your ideas to control officers listed above. At this point, we envision the following core areas of focus:

- U.S. policy priorities in Southeast Asia
- Counterterrorism
- Domestic political developments in Southeast Asia
- ASEAN and the East Asia Summit
- Pol/Mil developments
- Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons
- Corruption
- Economics and trade, including free trade agreements
- Post-tsunami developments
- Health: Avian Flu, HIV/AIDS, SARS
- Tips for reporting officers

4. We hope to attract speakers from Washington on key topics. In addition, to increase synergies and avoid stovepiping, we would welcome participation from info addressees as well, at least as observers.

MUSSOMELI